

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 line 10 as follows:

a2 In the first step in figure 1, paper 1 is about to enter perforation unit 2. If the paper is to be perforated, the actuator of the perforation unit is given a signal to lower perforation disc 3 for the time the paper passes in front of the disc (step 2). Thus a perforation 5 in the direction of movement is produced on the paper. When the paper has passed by the disc, the disc will automatically rise to its upper position (step 3). If no perforation is desired, the perforation unit is not given any signal, the paper passing then through the unit with the perforation disc constantly at a distance from the paper.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 line 17 as follows:

a3 Figure 2 illustrates a configuration where perforating unit 2 is placed in printout unit 6. In this configuration, paper is taken from reel 7, is cut into sheets 1 and the desired message is printed on the sheets with printer 8. The printout is controlled by means of computer 9 and control unit 10. If perforation is desired on the sheet, a signal 11 is emitted from the control unit to the perforation unit. The perforated sheets are stacked in a pile 12 and transferred to a mailing machine, for instance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 3 as follows:

a4 The opposing roll 4 of perforation disc 3 is flat, i.e. it has no groove matching the disc. In this manner, there will be no relief on the paper, which could hamper any further handling of the paper.

Please add the following paragraph beginning on page 4, line 6 as follows:

a5 What is claimed is:

In the Claims:**Please amend claims 1, 11, 12, 14-17, 20-23, 29, 30 and 33 as follows:**

a6 1. (Once Amended) A perforator for selectively perforating sheets of paper of a group of sheets, wherein sheets to be perforated are selected as the group is moving successively through the perforator, the perforation being along a direction of the movement, the perforator comprising:

a first perforating tool past which one or more sheets of paper move successively, the first perforating tool having a perforating position to perforate paper passing the perforating tool, and having a neutral position to refrain from perforating paper passing the perforating tool, and having an input for receiving a first control signal; and

an electronic control apparatus having an input to receive a second control signal as the group of sheets moves through the perforator, and an output connected to the input of the first perforating tool, wherein, for each sheet of paper that passes the first perforating device, the second control signal is based on information specific to the sheet, and

wherein, the electronic control apparatus is configured such that, for each sheet of paper that passes the first perforating device, if perforation is desired for the sheet based on the second control signal, the electronic control apparatus emits a signal from the output of the electronic control apparatus to the input of the first perforating tool to place the first perforating tool in the perforating position, and if perforation is not desired for the page based on the second control signal, the electronic control apparatus does not emit a signal to the first perforating tool.

11. (Once Amended) A method of selectively perforating sheets of paper of a group of sheets, wherein sheets to be perforated are selected as the group is moving successively through a perforation device, the perforation being along a direction of the movement, the perforation device including a perforating tool having a perforating position in which a sheet of paper is perforated and a neutral position in which a sheet of paper is not perforated, the device further including a control unit to control the perforating tool, the method comprising acts of:

successively receiving the moving sheets at the perforating device;

as the group of sheets moves through the perforation device, for each received sheet, receiving at the control unit a first control signal based on information specific to the received sheet;

sending a second control signal from the control unit to the perforating tool to set the perforating tool into the perforating position if, based on the first control signal, a received sheet to be perforated enters the perforating device; and

perforating the received sheet along the direction of movement in accordance with the second control signal to produce a perforated sheet.

a 7 could

12. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the act of receiving the first control signal includes:

receiving the first control signal from a printer output data.

a 8 fit

14. (Once Amended) A method of selectively perforating sheets of paper of a group of sheets, wherein sheets to be perforated are selected as the group is moving successively through a perforating device, the perforating device including a first perforating tool for perforating sheets of paper and a control unit for controlling the perforating tool, wherein the first perforating tool perforates the paper along a direction of the movement of the sheets, the method comprising acts of:

successively receiving a plurality of sheets of paper as input to the perforating device;

and

positioning the first perforating tool in either a perforating position to perforate paper or a neutral position to allow paper to pass unperforated, including:

as the group of sheets moves through the perforation device, for at least a first sheet, receiving at the control unit a first control signal based on information specific to the first sheet;

sending, based on the first control signal, a second control signal from the control unit to the first perforating tool to cause the first perforating tool to assume the perforating position; and

in response to receiving the second control signal from the control unit, actuating the first perforating tool to assume the perforating position while the first sheet passes.

15. (Once Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the act of positioning includes: maintaining the first perforating tool in the neutral position if no second control signal is received at the first perforation tool.

16. (Once Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the first control signal is received from a data signal output of a printer.

17. (Once Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the first control signal is received from a reader that reads codes from the sheets of paper.

20. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 14, further comprising an act of: transferring the sheets to a mailing machine after the act of perforating.

21. (Once Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the act of receiving the first control signal includes:

receiving the first control signal from printer output data.

22. (Once Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the act of receiving the first control signal includes:

reading a code in the sheets with a reader.

23. (Once Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein, for each received sheet, the act of receiving first control the signal includes:

reading a code on the sheet with a reader.

27. (Once Amended) A system for selectively perforating sheets of paper of a group of sheets, wherein sheets to be perforated are selected as the group is moving successively through a perforating device, the perforating device including a first perforating tool for perforating paper and a control unit for controlling the perforating tool, wherein the first perforating tool perforates the paper along a direction of the movement of the sheets, the system comprising:

means for successively receiving a plurality of sheets of paper as input to the perforating device; and

means for positioning the first perforating tool in either a perforating position to perforate paper or a neutral position to allow paper to pass unperforated, including:

means for receiving at the control unit as the group of sheets moves through the perforation device, for at least a first sheet, a first control signal based on information specific to the first sheet;

a 10 could

means for sending, based on the first control signal, a second control signal from the control unit to the first perforating tool, to cause the first perforating tool to assume the perforating position; and

means for actuating, in response to receiving the control signal from the control unit, the first perforating tool to assume the perforating position while the first sheet passes.

a 11

29. (Once Amended) The system of claim 27, wherein the first control signal is received from a data signal output of a printer.

30. (Once Amended) The system of claim 27, wherein the first control signal is received from a reader that reads a code from the at least first sheet of paper.

a 12

33. (Once Amended) The system of claim 27, wherein:

the first control signal indicates that the first perforation tool is to assume the perforating position for a first duration;

the means for actuating includes means for actuating the first perforation tool to assume the perforating position for the first duration and returning the first perforation tool to the neutral position after the first duration has elapsed to produce a perforation of a desired length; and

the desired length of the perforation is different for two or more of the perforated sheets.

Please add the following claims 34-38:

a 13

34. The perforator of claim 10, wherein the second control signal comprises data output from the printer.

35. The perforator of claim 1, wherein for each sheet of paper that passes the first perforating device, the second control signal is based on a code on the sheet of paper.

36. The perforator of claim 35, wherein, the perforator is connected to a reader that, for each sheet of paper that passes the perforating device, reads the code from the sheet of paper.

37. The method of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises an act of, for at least the first sheet, reading a code from the first sheet on which the first control signal is based.

38. The system of claim 30, wherein the system includes the reader.
